

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue-stimulating prosthesis comprising:
 - an elongate carrier member having a distal end, a proximal end, and at least one electrode positioned thereon;
 - at least one electrical conductor extending from one or more of the at least one electrode;
 - a lead extending from the carrier member and enclosing the at least one electrical conductor; and
 - a holding member constructed and arranged to radially extend outwardly from the surface of the carrier member to facilitate grasping of the holding member during implantation of the carrier member in a patient, wherein the holding member is rotatably mounted to the carrier member.
2. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is positioned adjacent to the proximal end of the carrier member.
3. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is an elongate member that extends longitudinally along a length of the carrier member.
4. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the carrier member has a width; and wherein the holding member extends outwardly from the carrier member surface for a distance defining a height of the holding member.
5. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 4, wherein the height of the holding member is approximately less than twice the carrier member width.

6. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 4, wherein the holding member has a width that tapers for a portion of its height away from the carrier member body.

7. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member has a width that varies along its height to define vertical regions.

8. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 7, wherein the vertical regions comprise:

a first vertical region proximal the carrier member surface and having a substantially consistent width; and

a second vertical region distal the carrier member surface and having a width that tapers.

9. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the first vertical region is approximately between about 20% and 80% of the height of the holding member.

10. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 9, wherein the first vertical region is approximately 50% of the height of the holding member.

11. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:

a support member that connects the holding member to the carrier member.

12. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the support member has a length approximately equal to or less than a maximum length of the holding member.

13. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the support member has a width that is less than a maximum width of the holding member.

14. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is removably joined to the carrier member.

15. (Cancelled) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is rotatably mounted to the carrier member.

16. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the carrier member comprises one or more longitudinal and lateral slots on its surface, and wherein the holding member is mounted to the carrier member so as to be adjustable along the one or more longitudinal and lateral slots.

17. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member further comprises:

an indicia that identifies the holding member on the carrier member.

18. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 17, wherein the indicia comprises tactility of the holding member.

19. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 17, wherein the indicia comprises a relative shape of the holding member and the carrier member.

20. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 17, wherein the indicia comprises a color of the holding member.

21. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrode is disposed at the distal end of the carrier member, and wherein the at least one electrical conductor comprises one or more electrically-conducting wires extending from each said at least one electrode toward the proximal end of the carrier member.

22. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the at least one electrical conductor is formed from a biocompatible electrically conducting metal.

23. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by the fingers of a surgeon.

24. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by a surgical tool.

25. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the carrier member is constructed and arranged to be implanted using an insertion tool.

26. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the insertion tool comprises a slotted tube, and wherein the carrier member is adapted to be supported in the slotted tube such that the holding member extends through a slot of the slotted tube when the carrier member is placed within the tube.

27. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the tissue-stimulating prosthesis is a cochlear implant system.

28. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the carrier member is formed from a resiliently flexible material.

29. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 28, wherein the carrier member is preformed from a plastics material with memory.

30. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the tissue-stimulating prosthesis is a cochlear implant system, and wherein the carrier member is preformed to adopt a spirally curved configuration that matches the spiral nature of the scala tympani of the human cochlea, and wherein the carrier member is adapted to be straightened prior to implantation.

31. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the carrier member has a lumen extending longitudinally through the carrier member, and wherein the prosthesis further comprises:

a stiffening element adapted to extend through the lumen to bias the carrier member into at least a substantially straight configuration prior to and during initial insertion of the carrier member through a cochleostomy.

32. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 31, wherein the stiffening element is formed from a non-bioresorbable material.

33.-73. (Cancelled)

74. (New) An implantable tissue-stimulating prosthesis comprising:

an elongate carrier member having a distal end, a proximal end, and at least one electrode positioned thereon;

at least one electrical conductor extending from one or more of the at least one electrode;

a lead extending from the carrier member and enclosing the at least one electrical conductor; and

a holding member constructed and arranged to radially extend outwardly from the surface of the carrier member to facilitate grasping of the holding member during implantation of the carrier member in a patient, wherein the carrier member comprises one or more longitudinal and lateral slots on its surface, and wherein the holding

member is mounted to the carrier member so as to be adjustable along the one or more longitudinal and lateral slots.

75. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is positioned adjacent to the proximal end of the carrier member.

76. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is an elongate member that extends longitudinally along a length of the carrier member.

77. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the carrier member has a width; and wherein the holding member extends outwardly from the carrier member surface for a distance defining a height of the holding member.

78. (New) The prosthesis of claim 77, wherein the holding member has a width that tapers for a portion of its height away from the carrier member body.

79. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member has a width that varies along its height to define vertical regions.

80. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, further comprising:
a support member that connects the holding member to the carrier member.

81. (New) The prosthesis of claim 80, wherein the support member has a width that is less than a maximum width of the holding member.

82. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is removably joined to the carrier member.

83. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is rotatably mounted to the carrier member.

84. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member further comprises:
an indicia that identifies the holding member on the carrier member.

85. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by the fingers of a surgeon.

86. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by a surgical tool.

87. (New) The prosthesis of claim 74, wherein the tissue-stimulating prosthesis is a cochlear implant system.

88. (New) An implantable tissue-stimulating prosthesis comprising:

an elongate carrier member having a distal end, a proximal end, and at least one electrode positioned thereon;

at least one electrical conductor extending from one or more of the at least one electrode;

a lead extending from the carrier member and enclosing the at least one electrical conductor; and

a holding member constructed and arranged to radially extend outwardly from the surface of the carrier member to facilitate grasping of the holding member during implantation of the carrier member in a patient, wherein the holding member further comprises an indicia that identifies the holding member on the carrier member

89. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the indicia comprises tactility of the holding member.

90. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the indicia comprises a relative shape of the holding member and the carrier member.

91. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the indicia comprises a color of the holding member.

92. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is positioned adjacent to the proximal end of the carrier member.

93. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is an elongate member that extends longitudinally along a length of the carrier member.

94. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the carrier member has a width; and wherein the holding member extends outwardly from the carrier member surface for a distance defining a height of the holding member.

95. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member has a width that varies along its height to define vertical regions.

96. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, further comprising:
a support member that connects the holding member to the carrier member.

97. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is removably joined to the carrier member.

98. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is rotatably mounted to the carrier member.

99. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the carrier member comprises one or more longitudinal and lateral slots on its surface, and wherein the holding member is mounted to the carrier member so as to be adjustable along the one or more longitudinal and lateral slots.

100. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by the fingers of a surgeon.

101. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the holding member is constructed and arranged to be manipulated by a surgical tool.

102. (New) The prosthesis of claim 88, wherein the tissue-stimulating prosthesis is a cochlear implant system.